

Message Text

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21

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INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 SAM-01 PRS-01

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P R 120920Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8203

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BEIRUT FOR UNDER SECRETARY TABOR

DEPT PASS USDOC

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, OVIP (TABOR, JOHN), TS

SUBJ: TRIP OF UNDER SECRETARY TABOR

REF: TUNIS 869

FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT FOR TABOR ARRIVAL STATEMENT AT TUNIS AIRPORT ON FEB 14. PLEASE INDICATE APPROVAL OR SUGGESTED ALTERATION IN ORDER PERMIT STATEMENT TO BE TRANSLATED INTO FRENCH AND ARABIC FOR DISTRIBUTION TO PRESS ON ARRIVAL. QUOTE: I AM EXTREMELY PLEASED TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF MAKING MY FIRST VISIT TO TUNISIA AND TO BECOME ACQUAINTED AT FIRST HAND WITH YOUR ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND PLANS FOR THE FUTURE. MANY VISITORS FROM TUNISIA, INCLUDING MR. TIJANI CHELLI OF THE INVESTMENTS PROMOTION AGENCY AND -- MOST RECENTLY -- MINISTER OF PLAN CHEDLI AYARI AND HIS IMPORTANT DELEGATION HAVE HELPED MAKE MY GOVERNMENT AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AWARE OF THE OUTSTANDING GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TUNISIAN ECONOMY.

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COOPERATION BETWEEN US SINCE YOUR INDEPENDENCE AND

BELEIVES THIS HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRESENT ENCOURAGING PERFORMANCE OF YOUR ECONOMY. I ASSURE YOU THAT THE UNITED STATES INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN FURTHERING TUNISIA'S DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY THROUGH REALIZATION OF THE PROMISING POTENTIAL TO EXPAND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT LINKS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. THIS THEME WAS HEAVILY STRESSED DURING MINISTER AYARI'S EFFECTIVE TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE RECENT VISIT TO TUNIS OF MR. DAVID ROCKEFELLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CHASE MANHATTAN BANK. I AM ALSO PLEASED THAT A MAJOR DELEGATION OF US BUSINESSMEN LOOKING FOR INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS SPENDING SEVERAL DAYS HERE AT THE END OF FEBRUARY.

DURING MY STATE HERE IN TUNIS, I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO RENEWING MY ACQUAINTANCE WITH SEVERAL TUNISIAN OFFICIALS I HAD THE PLEASURE OF MEETING IN WASHINGTON AND TO DISCUSSING VARIOUS SUBJECTS OF MUTUAL INTEREST WITH PRIME MINISTER HEDI NOUIRA, AND OTHER LEADING OFFICIALS OF YOUR GOVERNMENT. I READ WITH GRATIFICATION THAT THE INFLUENTIAL LONDON FINANCIAL TIMES RECENTLY SINGLED OUT TUNISIA ALONG WITH TWO OTHER COUNTRIES FOR AN "OSCAR" FOR ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT. WITH LEADERSHIP THAT PRODUCES SUCH RESULTS AND ECONOMIC POLICIES WHICH ENCOURAGE INDIVIDUAL INITIATIVE AND EXPANDED WORLD TRADE AND TIES, TUNISIA'S ECONOMIC FUTURE IS BRIGHT. WE HOPE TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTNER IN THAT FUTURE. UNQUOTE. SEELYE

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